



## **Rev. John Samuel Westbrook, Jr.**

June 6, 1944 - March 2, 2015

Reverend John Samuel Westbrook, Jr. was born into a Christian family on June 6, 1944 in Yale, Virginia to the late John Samuel and Ruby Taylor Westbrook. His mother was a Sunday School teacher and his father was Chairman of Trustees at Morning Star Baptist Church in Capron, Virginia. At age 9, he accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior and was baptized at Morning Star. Throughout his childhood, John was an active participant in local and regional church activities which included Sunday School, singing in the choir, usher board, various church associations and the Baptist Young People's Union. He graduated as valedictorian of his high school class in 1961 at Southampton County Public Schools.

John was a 1965 graduate of Hampton Institute with a Bachelor of Arts in Physics and Mathematics. He was the first in his family to attend college. He became a member of the Gamma Epsilon chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc in 1963. The bond that was formed by the "Supreme Fifteen" has not been broken in over 50 years. He was also a member of the Pershing Rifles.

John met his devoted wife, Winnie, at Hampton. On January 23, 1966, John and Winnie were united in holy matrimony and from this union two children were born, John, III and Amy Meredith.

John, served his country as 2nd Lieutenant/1st Lieutenant for two years in the U.S. Army, 9th Infantry Division, Vietnam. During his tour of duty he earned the Bronze Star.

John retired from IBM after 30 years of service. During his tenure he held numerous positions to include IT consultant and programming education manager. He was also selected for the IBM 100% Club and to attend the IBM Systems Engineering Symposium multiple times. He enjoyed a two year IBM Faculty Loan assignment at Virginia State University. While there, he developed the curriculum and planned the implementation of the University's first Trojan summer computer camp .

After being retired for 6 years, John re-entered the workforce serving 8 more years for the City of Richmond. His primary role was providing legislative support and delivery of citizen services on behalf of the 6th and 9th district council members.

In 2007, John answered the call to preach and was licensed and ordained at Morning Star Baptist Church. He received his Master of Divinity from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University. He used his calling as an Associate Minister at both Morning Star and Fifth Street Baptist Churches .

Not only was John a loyal employee and evangelist, he was also an active member in the Richmond community. He served on the boards for Boaz and Ruth, Inc., the Highland Park Community Development Corporation and the Chelsea Hill Family Life and Research Center.

Typically, John started his day with a crossword puzzle and later added Sudoku. Music was in his bones. He was a self-taught pianist. With this innate gift, he not only played for his own enjoyment, he also played for his home

church choir and senior centers in the Richmond community. He was a thespian, performing in numerous stage and film productions. He sang with The Celebration Male Chorus, as well as the Tucker Chorus until he was no longer able to participate. John was honored to be asked to join the the Swinson Brothers Quartet, because he could sing and he knew all the words to the songs as he learned them at Morning Star.

John had a special relationship with his grandchildren. He was known for his bubbles, balloons and Bazooka bubble gum.

When all has been said and done, John never forgot that the real lessons of life were learned "behind the barn" and working with his father and older brothers on the pulpwood truck. He felt that the lessons learned at Morning Star and in his early family life sustained him throughout his adult life.

Reverend John Samuel Westbrook, Jr. departed this life on March 2, 2015. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ruby T. And John S. Westbrook, Sr. and brother Willie Westbrook. He is survived by his wife, Edwina Westbrook; daughter, Amy Westbrook Toombs (Shawn); son, John Samuel Westbrook, III; five grandchildren: Matthew and Samuel Smith, Elijah Harris, Madeline and Alainna Toombs; sister, Roslin Brown (Rudolph); brother, Joel Westbrook (Eva); mother-in-law, Elizabeth Morris; two brothers-in-law, Fred White (Patreis) and K. Mitchell White (Hahna) and a host of other relatives and friends.

The Other Shore

by Luther Barnes and the Redd Budd Choir

Though the clouds may hang over  
there will be a brighter day

in that land, they call heaven  
God shall wipe all tears away

We shall behold the lamb of God  
sitting on the throne  
There be no more crying,  
no more weeping  
troubles will be gone  
Hallelujah there be joy forever more  
when we reach that other shore

No more sorrow and  
no more weeping  
peace and joy everyday  
For besides life's crystal river  
God shall wipe all tears away

Oh the joy of meeting Jesus  
mortal tongues cannot portray  
For we know  
when we behold him  
God shall wipe  
all tears away

# Cemetery Details

## Morning Star Baptist Church Cemetery

14502 Rivers Mill Road  
Capron, VA 23829

# Previous Events

## viewing

MAR 8. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home-Laburnum Chapel  
Richmond, VA 23222

## Family Hour

MAR 8. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home-Laburnum Chapel  
Richmond, VA 23222

## Service

MAR 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

5th Street Baptist Church  
2800 3rd Ave.  
Richmond, VA 23222

## Interment

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MAR **10**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Morning Star Baptist Church Cemetery  
14502 Rivers Mill Road  
Capron, VA 23829

# Tribute Wall



“ *Rev. John Samuel Westbrook, Jr.*

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October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *To the family of Mr. Westbrook.*

*I was a student at Virginia State University in 2001-2002 when Mr. Westbrook was a consultant for the upgrade of the Human Resources Management System. Mr. Westbrook allowed me to work alongside him so that I could use the project upgrade as my Senior Project for graduation. Mr. Westbrook took such an interest in seeing me thrive and succeed, and he poured so much time, interest, and information into me. Needless to say, my project was successful, and I received an "A". I wouldn't be the I/T professional I am today if it weren't for Mr. Westbrook's care and compassion to see me succeed. I am forever grateful to Mr. Westbrook, and have often thought about him. You all have my sincerest sympathies, and I pray that God continues to wrap you all in his Grace & Mercy, and may the warm and endearing memories of my dear friend sustain you all as you continue to go forward.*

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**Steve Callands** - June 14, 2016 at 09:53 AM

BT

“ Just learned today of John's passing. I am so sorry to hear of this and will always remember the kindness that he and Winnie shared with me and Dorothy as we were beginning life together. I always looked forward to seeing him and regret that I was not aware of his illness or passing. I would have been there. Not only was he a friend, he helped me during my employment at IBM and was an Omega and a PR like I am. He was a good person and I am sure he will be rewarded in eternity for a life well lived on earth.

*Brad Thompson*

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**Brad Thompson** - June 05, 2015 at 06:15 PM

JC

“ I was a classmate of John at Hampton. We are all sorry he won't be with us for our 50th reunion. He will be with us in spirit.

*John Coleman*

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**John Coleman** - March 11, 2015 at 02:17 PM

ED

“ To the family of John Westbrook, Jr.

*Warm thoughts of sympathy and blessings be with you. I was shocked to hear of John's demise. We rode the same school bus in high school and attended the same Sunday School. John was a fun person who was taken too soon in human's opinion but we must rest in the comfort of the words from Ecclesiastes 3:1 "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:" John served his purpose in his season.*

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**Eva Sykes Deese** - March 10, 2015 at 01:37 PM

JS

“ Please accept my deepest sympathy. Death is an enemy. Not a friend 1cor 15:26 says that the last enemy, death, is to be brought to nothing. Therefore, take comfort in Gods word that very soon God and his son Christ Jesus will end all sufferings including death

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joan s - March 09, 2015 at 07:30 AM

JT

“ Joan Thomas lit a candle in memory of Rev. John Samuel Westbrook, Jr.



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Joan Thomas - March 08, 2015 at 06:50 PM

BE

“ Dear Winnie and family,

*I am so sorry to learn of Rev. Westbrook's (John's) passing. He was a gifted man of God who was dedicated to his calling and passionate about the Word. Our family will sorely miss him. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything I can do to assist you and your family during this very difficult time.*

*Deacon Brenda Edwards and Family*

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Brenda Edwards - March 08, 2015 at 01:11 PM

RB

“ *ROSLIN G. BROWN purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Rev. John Samuel Westbrook, Jr..*



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**ROSLIN G. BROWN** - March 07, 2015 at 05:40 PM



“ *Sacred Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rev. John Samuel Westbrook, Jr..*



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March 07, 2015 at 10:19 AM

BY

“ *Bridget Young purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Rev. John Samuel Westbrook, Jr..*



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**Bridget Young** - March 06, 2015 at 11:16 AM

DF

“ *He was a good student; a pleasure to teach. To be around him was to be in the presence of a gentle soul. He was a true gentleman. I was in shock to get the news today. Gone way too soon. He will be missed. May his soul rest in peace. Dr. Naomi P. Franklin, School of Theology at Virginia Union University.*

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**Dr. Naomi P. Franklin** - March 05, 2015 at 01:28 PM



“ We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.

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**March Funeral Homes** - March 04, 2015 at 10:10 PM